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	1 2 3 4 5 6	JAMES L. LOPES (No. 63678) WILLIAM J. LAFFERTY (No. 120814) JULIE B. LANDAU (No. 162038) HOWARD, RICE, NEMEROVSKI, CANADY, FALK & RABKIN A Professional Corporation Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor San Francisco, California 94111-4065 Telephone: 415/434-1600 Facsimile: 415/217-5910 Attorneys for Debtor and Debtor in Possession PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY							
	8	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT							
	9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
	10	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION							
	11	In ro	No. 01-30923 DM						
	12	In re PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC	Chapter 11 Case						
HOWARD	13	COMPANY, a California corporation,	Date: December 3, 2001						
MEROVSKI CANADY FALK	14	Debtor.	Time: 1:30 p.m. Place: 235 Pine Street, 22nd Floor						
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NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS

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NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS -ii-

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS, FOR APPROVAL OF INTERIM PAYMENTS TO APPRAISERS AND BROKERS WITHIN SPECIFIED PARAMETERS, AND FOR NUNC PRO TUNC APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYMENT OF TERRA PROPERTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held before the Honorable Dennis Montali, at the United States Bankruptcy Court, 235 Pine Street, 22nd Floor, San Francisco, California, on December 3, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. to consider the accompanying Application for Authority to Employ Real Estate Appraisers and Brokers, for Approval of Payments to Appraisers and Brokers Within Specified Parameters, and for Nunc Pro Tunc Approval for Employment of Terra Properties (the "Application"), filed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E"), debtor and debtor in possession in the within case.

In support of the Application, PG&E is filing and serving herewith the Declaration of Tammie Candelario and the Declaration of Julie B. Landau, both of which contain voluminous exhibits, which are not attached to the service copies of the Declarations. You may obtain copies of the exhibits in one of the following ways: (i) through the "Pacific Gas & Electric Company Chapter 11 Case" link accessible through the Bankruptcy Court's website (www.canb.uscourts.gov), or (ii) by written request to Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk & Rabkin, Attention: Nathaniel Hunt, Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor, San Francisco, California 94111-4065.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any party objecting to the Application must file an objection with the Court and serve it on the undersigned counsel for PG&E at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

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APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS, FOR APPROVAL OF INTERIM PAYMENTS TO APPRAISERS AND BROKERS WITHIN SPECIFIED PARAMETERS, AND FOR NUNC PRO TUNC APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYMENT OF TERRA PROPERTIES

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the debtor and debtor-in-possession in the within Chapter 11 case ("PG&E"), hereby requests authority to employ the real estate appraisers and brokers as described below, pursuant to Section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Code") and Rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules").

As more particularly set forth below, PG&E has historically employed numerous real estate professionals in the course of regular business operations in order to facilitate lease, purchase, and sale transactions and to advise PG&E on real estate strategy and planning. The services of the real estate professionals are essential in the operation of a large utility business.

This Application also seeks approval for the interim payment of the brokers' and appraisers' fees to the extent such fees are within certain specified parameters, without necessity of prior notice or order, but subject to final approval by the Court (except for broker's sale commissions), as described in Paragraphs 15 and 16 below.

Finally, this Application also seeks approval for the employment of broker Terra Properties, <u>nuce pro tune</u>, as of the petition date.

I. EMPLOYMENT OF REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

A. PG&E's Business and Operations.

- 1. PG&E filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on April 6, 2001. A trustee has not been appointed, and PG&E continues to function as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107 and 1108 of the Code.
- 2. PG&E is an investor-owned utility providing gas and electric services to more than 4.5 million customers in Central and Northern California serving a total population of about 13 million. PG&E employs over 19,000 people and has in excess of NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS

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30,000 trade creditors. See Declaration of Walter Campbell in Support of Debtor's Emergency Motions, ¶2, filed on April 6, 2001.

To perform the functions required of a large utility providing power generation and distribution services to millions of customers, PG&E maintains a large portfolio of real estate assets. PG&E owns approximately 5,000 parcels of real estate and, as a tenant, leases space in approximately 240 buildings in addition to a number of land leases. Therefore, in the ordinary course of its business, PG&E regularly employs real estate appraisers and brokers to assist PG&E on real estate matters, including: (1) leasing transactions, (2) the purchase and sale of real estate, and (3) real estate strategy and planning. See Declaration of Tammie Candelario in Support of Application ("Candelario Declaration"), filed herewith, ¶2.1 was a second of the se

PG&E's Real Estate Professionals. B.

4. Appraisers. PG&E seeks to employ the appraisers (the "Appraisers") listed on Exhibit A to the Candelario Declaration. Each of the Appraisers has submitted a declaration, which are collectively attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Julie B. Landau attaching Declarations of Appraisers and Brokers (the "Landau Declaration"), filed the first may show as a company hard, than I herewith.

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STATES OF THE STATE OF THE STAT

- Brokers. PG&E seeks to employ the brokers (the "Brokers") listed on 5. Exhibit B to the Candelario Declaration. Each of the Brokers has submitted a declaration, which are collectively attached as Exhibit B to the Landau Declaration.
- PG&E is readily familiar with the professional capabilities of each of the Appraisers and Brokers and believes that each is well-qualified to assist PG&E in connection with ongoing real estate matters.

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All factual matter set forth herein is supported by the Candelaric Declaration, unless indicated otherwise. was light met all to be a entro

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

A. Appraisers.

7. Appraiser Contracts. Subject to the approval of the Court, PG&E has agreed or will agree to the employment of the Appraisers according to PG&E's standard terms in place prior to commencement of this case. The standard form of contract utilized for retention of appraisers is attached as Exhibit C to the Candelario Declaration (the "Appraiser Contract"). The purpose of the Appraiser Contract is to specify the general terms and conditions under which PG&E will hire an appraiser and to set limits on the appraiser's fee, such as the hourly rate and a maximum contract value. When a particular project necessitates employment of an appraiser, a Contract Work Authorization ("CWA") is signed by the parties, authorizing the work and agreeing to the specific fee to be paid for that project, subject to the general terms and conditions of the Appraiser Contract. The summary provided on Exhibit A to the Candelario Declaration includes a description of the terms and conditions of each Appraiser Contract that are variable, primarily the different hourly rates charged by each Appraiser. Although the Appraisers have existing Appraiser Contracts in place, PG&E has not actually employed any of the Appraisers post-petition, except on acquisition matters as set forth in Paragraph 10 below. Furthermore, there are no outstanding amounts due to any of the Appraisers.²

8. Appraisal Costs. The actual costs to PG&E for an appraisal are generally determined by a number of factors including complexity of the assignment, type of report needed and location of the property. These same factors generally determine which appraiser would be chosen for a particular job. It is also typical for PG&E to request quotes from two or more appraisers, who generally bid for the particular job on a "not to exceed" basis. Because of its extensive experience in managing its real estate portfolio, PG&E has a high-level of in-house expertise that permits it to monitor the validity and reasonableness of

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²The only exception is for appraiser Gary Vice, who has waived a pre-petition claim against PG&E in the amount of \$2,400, as set forth in paragraph 6 of the Declaration of Gary Vice, attached as Exhibit A-11 to the Landau Declaration.

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appraisal fees and costs. In the vast majority of appraisals obtained by PG&E pre-petition, PG&E has paid no more than \$10,000 per appraisal, which includes both the fee for conducting the appraisal and any related costs incurred by the appraiser.

- Appraiser Consulting Fees. PG&E also seeks to employ the Appraisers to conduct valuation consulting services, such as determining the highest and best use for a parcel of real estate, in situations where an appraisal is not needed. In such cases, the Appraiser would be paid on an hourly basis at the agreed upon hourly rate. In connection with appraiser-related consulting services conducted pre-petition, PG&E has paid varying amounts, depending upon its real estate needs at any particular time, ranging up to \$20,000 per year. Currently, PG&E's expectation is that the reorganization effort will require additional valuation consulting services as PG&E focuses on real estate disposition and strategic planning, and PG&E estimates that such services will average \$5,000 per month in hourly consulting fees for the Appraisers.
- 10. Appraisers as Expert Witnesses. PG&E is not seeking approval for the employment of appraisers in connection with property acquisitions under the authority of In re That's Entertainment Marketing Group, Inc., 168 B.R. 226 (N.D. Cal. 1994). As a brief overview, in the course of PG&E's business as a government-regulated utility, all real property (or in many cases, easements) to be acquired is treated as a potential condemnation action in light of PG&E's power to condemn property. PG&E is required to hire an appraiser to comply with the procedural requirements of the eminent domain law. Although in many cases PG&E reaches an agreement with a landowner before a condemnation action is actually filed, the appraiser is hired specifically to prepare an appraisal to be used in a condemnation action. In addition, and under the same authority, one of PG&E's valuation consultants is not included in this Application, as it is expected that this consultant's only role will be to testify (i) before the CPUC regarding a property sale for which he completed valuation work pre-petition, and (ii) in a condemnation action involving property for which he also completed valuation work pre-petition.

B. Brokers.

11. Broker Consulting Contracts. PG&E seeks authority to employ the Brokers listed on Exhibit B-1 to the Candelario Declaration ("Consulting Brokers") for consulting services in addition to standard brokerage services. The standard form of contract utilized for retention of brokers in connection with consulting services is attached as Exhibit D-1 and D-2 to the Candelario Declaration (the "Broker Contract"). As with the Appraiser Contract. the purpose of the Broker Contract is to specify the general terms and conditions under which PG&E will hire a broker and to set limits on the broker's fee, such as the hourly rate and a maximum contract value. When a particular project necessitates employment of a broker, a CWA is signed by the parties, authorizing the work and agreeing to the fee to be paid for that project, subject to the general terms and conditions of the Broker Contract. For each of the Consulting Brokers, the summary provided on Exhibit B-1 to the Candelario Declaration includes a description of the terms and conditions of the Broker Contracts that are variable, primarily the different hourly rates charged for consulting services. Although the Consulting Brokers have existing Broker Contracts in place, PG&E has not actually employed any of the Consulting Brokers post-petition and there are no outstanding amounts due to any of the Consulting Brokers.

12. Exclusive Listing Agreements. PG&E also seeks to employ certain Brokers solely for purposes of an exclusive listing to sell property. These Brokers are identified on Exhibit B-2 to the Cardelario Declaration (the "Listing Brokers") and are not expected to perform any consulting services. Therefore, the Broker Contract summarized in Paragraph 11 above is not necessary. The form of Exclusive Listing Agreement to be used by PG&E for the Listing Brokers is attached as Exhibit E to the Candelario Declaration.⁴ The only

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³As explained in more detail in Paragraph 10 of the Candelario Declaration, Exhibit D-1 is an example of the general contract form used for the Consulting Brokers who have prepetition contracts, and Exhibit D-2 is an example of the general contract form used for the Consulting Brokers who have recently (post-petition) executed a contract; the former includes the terms of PG&E's exclusive listing agreement, while the latter does not.

⁴The Exclusive Listing Agreement would also be used for the Consulting Brokers in the event they perform brokerage services.

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Listing Broker currently under contract with PG&E is Terra Properties, which has two prepetition exclusive listing agreements with PG&E for properties that have not yet sold. Further information about these agreements is set forth in Part VI below, which also includes PG&E's request for nunc pro tunc approval for the employment of Terra Properties.

Broker Commissions. Historically, the commissions paid by PG&E for property sales are negotiable based on the amount of time and expertise required to complete the assignment and are calculated as a percentage of the sale price. Commissions paid by PG&E pre-petition for sale transactions ranged from 3% to 10%, with the vast majority in the 4% to 6% range. A 10% fee has typically been paid only for low value (\$50,000 or less) rural property. In most other transactions, the highest fee PG&E has paid is 6%. PG&E anticipates that most of its real estate transactions will consist of property sales. In the event of a purchase, however, PG&E typically pays no broker's commission but may pay a broker for hourly consulting services in connection with the transaction. Similarly, in lease transactions, PG&E is typically the lessee and does not pay a broker's commission but may pay a broker for hourly consulting services in connection with the transaction.

Broker Consulting Fees. PG&E seeks to employ the Consulting Brokers for consulting services, such as when PG&E seeks market research in connection with real estate strategy and planning or where PG&E will not be paying a commission but seeks advice from a broker in connection with a transaction. In such cases, the broker is paid on an hourly basis at the agreed upon hourly rate. In connection with broker-related consulting services conducted pre-petition, PG&E has paid varying amounts, depending upon its real estate needs at any particular time, ranging up to \$50,000 per year. Currently, PG&E's expectation is that the reorganization effort will require additional broker consulting services as PG&E focuses on real estate disposition and strategic planning, and PG&E estimates that such services will average \$15,000 per month in hourly consulting fees for the Brokers.

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15. Final Allowance of Fees. Except for commissions paid to Brokers hereunder, all fees and expenses of the Appraisers and Brokers will be subject to final allowance by order of the Court at the conclusion of the case ("Final Order"), upon filing of an appropriate application for compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Section 330 of the Code, the Court's Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals (to the extent applicable to appraisers and brokers), and any other applicable rules or orders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, PG&E requests authority to pay all fees on a current basis in accordance with the terms and procedures set forth in Paragraph 16 below.

16. Approval of Interim Payment of Fees. Brokers are typically paid at the closing of a lease or sale transaction and appraisers are typically paid in full upon receipt of the completed appraisal report. Consulting fees are typically paid on a monthly basis based on invoices submitted. Accordingly, PG&E requests authority to pay the Appraisers and Brokers for the fees and expenses incurred under the following procedures:

- (a) Appraisal Fees. The Order approving this Application will constitute approval for the interim payment (subject to Final Order) by PG&E of all fees incurred by Appraisers to the extent such fees do not exceed a total of \$10,000 per appraisal (inclusive of any reimbursable expenses);
- (b) <u>Broker Commissions</u>. The Order approving this Application will constitute final approval (without any further notice or order) of payment by PG&E of all fees incurred by the Brokers to the extent such fees consist of broker commissions and do not exceed: (i) 10% of the sale price for rural property with a value of \$50,000 or less; or (ii) 6% of the sale price for all other property.⁵

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⁵Pursuant to the Order Granting PG&E's Motion for Authority (1) to Sell (Free and Clear of a Specified Lien), Donate, Lease, License or Otherwise Encumber Its Real and Personal Property, etc., entered on October 15, 2001, PG&E anticipates that many of its real property sales will not be subject to Court approval. Therefore, although broker's fees would ordinarily be approved as part of a sale approval motion, PG&E is seeking approval of the Brokers' fees pursuant to the procedures set forth in this Application.

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(c) Consulting Fees. The Order approving this Application will constitute approval for the interim payment (subject to Final Order) by PG&E of: (i) the Appraisers' hourly consulting fees to the extent such fees, in total, do not exceed \$5,000 per month (inclusive of any related reimbursable expenses); and (ii) the Brokers' hourly consulting fees to the extent such fees, in total, do not exceed \$15,000 per month (inclusive of any related reimbursable expenses), without prior notice or order.

(d) Excess Fees. If the fees and expenses are in excess of the amounts set forth in the preceding subparagraphs 16(a), (b) and (c) (the "Excess Fees"), then PG&E shall provide written notice (the "Notice") to the Office of the United States Trustee ("UST") and to counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee"), either in advance of the employment of an Appraiser or Broker for the project at issue or upon receipt of an invoice or statement from an Appraiser or Broker, provided, however, that PG&E shall be authorized to pay all amounts that are within the parameters set forth in subparagraphs 16(a), (b) and (c) above. If neither the UST nor the Committee provide PG&E with a written objection to the Excess Fees within seven (7) days of delivery of the Notice, then PG&E shall be authorized to pay the Excess Fees when due and payable. In the event that the UST or the Committee timely object, and such objection is not resolved consensually, then counsel for PG&E shall obtain a hearing date on such objection as promptly as the Court's calendar permits.

17. Real Estate Professional Fees Report. PG&E shall, no less frequently than every one hundred twenty (120) days, provide the Committee and the UST with a Report of Real Estate Professional Fees Incurred By and Paid to Appraisers and Brokers (the "Report"), which shall contain the following information: (a) the amount of fees incurred by and paid to each Appraiser and Broker for the period commencing one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the date of the Report and concluding thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Report (the "Reporting Period"), and (b) a brief description of the services rendered by each Appraiser and Broker during the Reporting Period.

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PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE

- The declarations of the Appraisers and Brokers attached to the Landau Declaration contain information concerning the professional disclosure required under Section 327(a) of the Code and Rule 2014 of the Bankruptcy Rules. PG&E is aware that certain of the Appraisers and Brokers may now or in the future represent creditors or other interested parties on matters unrelated to PG&E or this case. In order to address any potential conflict issues, the Appraisers and Brokers have all testified, as set forth in their declarations, that during the period of their employment by PG&E, (i) they will not represent any adverse parties in any matter related to PG&E or the bankruptcy case, and (ii) to the extent that an Appraiser or Broker represents any adverse parties in unrelated matters, no single adverse party accounts for or will account for more than 5% of such Appraiser's or Broker's total annual revenue. In addition, the Brokers have all testified in their declarations that they will not engage in a dual agency involving PG&E as buyer or seller unless authorized by a prior Court order.
- 19. PG&E is informed and believes that, except as set forth specifically in the Landau Declaration, the Appraisers and Brokers do not have any connection with PG&E's creditors, shareholders or any other parties in interest, or their respective attorneys and accountants. In addition, PG&E is informed and believes that the Appraisers and Brokers have no known connection with the UST or any person employed in the office of the UST.
- Based upon the statements set forth in the Landau Declaration, PG&E is informed and believes that the Appraisers and Brokers are disinterested persons under Section 101(14) of the Code, and that the Appraisers and Brokers do not hold or represent any interests adverse to the estate.

EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL APPRAISERS AND BROKERS

21. PG&E has attempted to include in this Application all appraisers and brokers that it currently anticipates hiring for real estate services. However, PG&E reserves the right to supplement this Application and request an amendment to any order approving

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this Application to request authority to employ additional appraisers and brokers.

VI. NUNC PRO TUNC APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYMENT OF TERRA PROPERTIES

- 22. Nature of Services Performed. Terra Properties ("Terra") has been marketing two properties for PG&E pursuant to two pre-petition exclusive listing agreements (the "Listing Agreements"):
- The first listing agreement was entered into on January 14, 2000, as currently extended to December 31, 2001, and involves property located in Redding, California on Court Street (the "Court Street Property"). This property consists of 4.3 acres of vacant property with improvements that require replacement and is to be sold for approximately \$700,000. No buyer was found for this property pre-petition. In August 2001, a potential buyer began negotiations to purchase the property but no final agreement and ever a rest take a construct that has been reached.
- The second listing agreement was entered into on January 24, 2001, with an expiration date of December 31, 2001, and involves property located in Redding, California on Viking Way (the "Viking Way Property"). This property consists of 30 acres of vacant land to be sold for approximately \$180,000. No buyer was found for this property pre-petition, nor are there any offers currently pending.
- 23. Standard for Nunc Pro Tune Approval. The standard for determining whether to grant a nunc pro tune employment application is "extraordinary circumstances." In re Gutterman, 239 B.R. 828, 830 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 1999) (citing In re THC Financial Corp., 837 F.2d 389, 392 (9th Cir. 1988)). This standard consists of two prongs: (1) whether the applicant has satisfactorily explained its failure to apply for court approval of its employment on a timely basis and (2) whether the applicant's services have benefited the estate." Gutterman, 239 B.R. at 830. It is within the court's discretion to grant or deny a nunc pro tunc application. Id. at 831.
 - 24. Nunc Pro Tunc Approval is Appropriate under the Circumstances.
- (a) Explanation for Failure to Apply for Court Approval. PG&E did not NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS AND BROKERS

HOWARD RICE NEMEROVSKI CANADY 14 BALK GRABKIN notify Terra of the requirement to be employed under Section 327(a) of the Code before this Application was prepared as it mistakenly believed that only brokers doing work prospectively required Court approval. PG&E was focused on the fact that new (post-petition) employment agreements required Court approval and therefore overlooked Terra's unique position. Terra was the only broker who "straddled" the petition date, in effect, by continuing to provide services under the pre-petition Listing Agreements since no buyers had been found for the Court Street and Viking Way Properties as of the petition date. Part of the confusion arose because there are other PG&E brokers with pre-petition exclusive listing agreements who are not being employed as estate professionals – this latter group of brokers hold pre-petition commission claims based on sale agreements entered into pre-petition and therefore do not satisfy the "disinterested" standard under Section 327(a) of the Code. Given the complexities of this case and the number of brokers being employed by PG&E, the necessity of obtaining approval for Terra's employment was simply overlooked for all of the foregoing reasons.

(b) Benefit to Estate. Terra's post-petition services have benefited the estate by continuing to expose these difficult-to-sell properties to the market. Although there is no sale agreement at this time, there is a potential buyer on the Court Street Property. Both the Court Street and the Viking Way Properties require substantial and prolonged marketing efforts due to their isolated locations and local market conditions. At this time, Terra is not owed any commissions and there is therefore no risk that substantial fees have accrued during the post-petition period without the Court's oversight.⁶

 ⁶The commissions agreed to under the Listing Agreements are slightly higher than the pre-approved limits requested by PG&E pursuant to this Application. However, both Listing Agreements expire on December 31, 2001 and PG&E has not decided whether to extend the agreements. As a result, PG&E is not hereby requesting approval for the Excess Fees and acknowledges that, assuming this Application is approved, any Excess Fees to be paid to Terra under the Listing Agreements would require approval pursuant to the procedures set forth in Paragraph 16 above.

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×1	2 pay the Appraisers and Brokers on the terms and conditions set forth in this Application, and			
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